



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Specimen Management In Operating Theatre: Review and Improvement

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Introduction

Specimen management is a multifaceted and multidisciplinary process. Effective specimen management in the perioperative setting is essential for accurate patient diagnosis and intervention. Perioperative nurses play a crucial role in such process. Incidents of specimen handling occur occasionally in OT/PMH, which might compromise the safety of patient care and worth our attention.

Objectives

This study aimed to identify the area of improvement in specimen management in Operating Theatre, Princess Margaret Hospital (OT/PMH).

Methodology

This is a retrospective study that reviews (1) all incidents of specimen handling occurred in OT/PMH from 2012 to 2014 and (2) internal audit conducted in 2015Q2.

Result

There were, in total, seven incidents of specimen handling from 2012 to 2014; four of those were related to mislabeling of the specimen. Others were related to specimen preservation and transportation. The internal audit showed that, in general, nurses had adequate knowledge regarding specimen handling. However, documentation and communication were relatively weak components in specimen handling. Supplementary measures such as (1) introduce two-independent-checks system, (2) concise specimen handling checklist and (3) periodic sharing of improvement works after internal root cause analysis report are recommended.